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Austria

Agricultural Situation

What's New in Central Europe

2005

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Report Highlights:

This newsletter provides an update on upcoming market promotion events and an overview of recent market trends, trade policy issues, and commodity analyses for the countries of Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, and Slovakia.

Highlights include: On November 2, Croatia confirmed the second case of H5N1 avian influenza in dead swans; On October 5, the European Commission's Court of First Instance ruled against Upper Austria's request to have upper Austria declared a GMO-free zone; This summer farmers in the Czech Republic planted 300 hectares of Bt corn (MON 810) for the first time.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Vienna [AU1]
[AU]



WHAT'S NEW IN CENTRAL EUROPE

AGRICULTURE – POLICY – TRADE

Newsletter covers:

★ Austria ★ Bosnia –Herzegovina ★ Czech Republic
★ Croatia ★ Hungary ★ Slovakia
"YOU DO THE BUSINESS, WE KEEP YOU INFORMED"

News

★ Austria

Austria Requires Mandatory Housing of Poultry and Domestic Birds: On October 20, the Austrian Health Ministry enacted a measure requiring the mandatory housing of poultry and domestic birds. As a result, poultry growers and hobby breeders are required to house their poultry and birds from October 22 to December 15, 2005. The duration of this ordinance may be extended if necessary. The Austrian Health Minister and the Agricultural Minister stated that this measure is a necessary precaution. The measure should protect Austrian poultry production, as well as Austrian consumers. This action is in response to the recent avian flu cases in the Romanian Danube-delta and in an area of Moscow. (See report AU5023) **

European Court of Justice Rules Against Upper Austria's GMO-free Zones: On October 5, the European Commission's Court of First Instance ruled against Upper Austria's request to have upper Austria declared a GMO-free zone. The European Commission originally rejected the province's GMO-ban two years ago, saying that there was no scientific justification for this ban. For this reason, Upper Austria prompted a court action and finally lost the legal battle on agricultural biotechnology against the European Commission. This was the first time the Court had ruled on a general prohibition of biotech crops in a region. (See report AU5022)

Exporter Guide Annual Report: In 2004, the Austrian economy grew faster than the Eurozone average and Germany with annual economic growth reaching 2.4%. Current low interest rates, income, and corporate tax cuts support private spending growth. The food sector grew by 19.5 % from 2000 to 2005 to total 11.6 billion Euros (\$14.2 billion USD). Consumer acceptance and governmental support have transformed Austria's organic foods sector from a niche market to a market segment of considerable importance. The trend towards convenience food and ready-to-eat meals will continue. Seafood, dried fruits, nuts, organics, wine, and gourmet foods offer the best U.S. export opportunities. (See report AU5021)

Sales of Organic Products Up: During the first four months of 2005, Austrian food retailers experienced an all time high for organic product sales in terms of value and quantity. Organic fresh produce sales totaled Euro 65.1 million (\$85.4 million), a 17.3% increase compared to the same period last year. Per capita expenditures for organics were up by 15.3%. Organic product sales have been on a steady increase for several years. In

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2004, total organic fresh produce sales amounted to Euro 159.8 million (\$209.7 million). There are good market opportunities for U.S. organic dried fruits and nuts. U.S. exporters should work through Austrian importers for import permits. (See report AU5020)

Biotechnology Survey Shows Only 11% of Consumers Willing to Buy Biotech Foods:

A recent survey found that only 11% of Austrian consumers are willing to buy foods that contain biotech ingredients. In general, women are more skeptical about biotechnology than men, and young people (up to 29 years old) are more open to biotechnology than older people. Interviewees with above average income showed more willingness to buy biotech products. However, a high number of explicit "non-buyers" was university graduates. Regarding provinces, Vienna was the most biotech-friendly area. (See report AU5019)

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report:

This report covers export certificates required by Austria, which differ from EU export certificate requirements. (See report AU5017)

Grain and Feed - Austrian Grain Harvest Down 11%: The Austrian grain harvest is expected to reach 4.31 million MT in 2005, this is 11% less than last year's harvest which totaled 4.84 million MT. Heavy rains and cool weather conditions have dampened high expectations for yield and quality. (See report AU5016)

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report: Austrian food legislation consists of the food law, ordinances to the food law, meat regulations, pesticide regulations, and the food codex. It is largely adjusted to conform with EU regulations. Austrian food regulations are valid for products produced in Austria and imported foods. However, Austria is obliged to allow entry of products permitted in other countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) ("Cassis de Dijon"). EU traceability and labeling regulations for biotech food and feed also apply in Austria, but until now retail stores have agreed not to sell biotech foods. Last Updated July 2005: Sections I, II, IV, VIII, Appendix I updated. (See report AU5014)

Sugar Annual Report: (See report AU5013)

Biotechnology Annual Report: Austria is one of the leading opponents of agricultural biotechnology within the European Union. Austria has fully implemented EU regulations on biotechnology. However, no single biotech crop is approved by Austria, and three national ordinances still effectively prevent the planting of EU-approved biotech crops. In addition, five of the nine Federal States have passed biotechnology precautionary bills to protect their organic and small-scale agricultural sector. The Austrian Government is working on coexistence guidelines for biotech, conventional, and organic crop production. Responding to consumers' anti-biotech attitudes and NGOs' anti-biotech lobbying, the Austrian retail sector agreed to refrain from stocking or selling biotech foods. Presently only biotech feed (soybean meal) can be found in the Austrian market. (See report AU5012)

Livestock and Products - Second Confirmed Case of BSE in Austria: On June 21, authorities confirmed the second case of BSE in Austria. The infected animal was an eleven-year old cow, born and raised on a small mountain farm in Vorarlberg province, close to the German border. The first case of BSE was in November 2001. Since that time, Austria has been regarded as BSE-free. The cause of this case is still unclear. (See report AU5011)

Austria's Wood Products Sector Continues Growth: In 2004, the value of Austria's wood products production reached a record high with production increasing by 10% compared to the previous year and amounting to \$7.41 billion. During the last seven years, the value of production rose by 41% in total. Almost 70% of Austria's wood products

production is exported. In 2004, total exports amounted to \$5.57 billion, a 4.3% increase compared to 2003. In 2004, wood product imports increased and amounted to \$3.16 billion, a 7% increase compared to 2003. The European Union supplies about 86%. (See report AU5009)

★ *Bosnia –Herzegovina*

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report:

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) requires various certificates for imported food products. However, there are no required formats that exporters are required to use, except for phytosanitary certificates that should be in accordance to the recommendations of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Only the veterinary certificate needs to contain certain statements set by the State Veterinary Office (SVA). The SVA is also responsible for verifying specific requirements for importing live animals and products of animal origin. This report provides information on Bosnia and Herzegovina export certificate requirements for food and agricultural products. (See report BK5010)

Grain and Feed Crop Update: The Entity Ministries of Agriculture decreased harvested wheat area to 80,000 hectares from the previously reported 88,000 ha. Due to excessive rain during harvest, some wheat could not be harvested, and average yield was lower than normal at 2.5 tons/ha. As a result of wet field conditions, total production is estimated to be at below 200,000 tons. Reportedly, the quality of the crop is also lower. (See report BK5009)

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report: This report provides information on the food import rules for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), including the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska. It includes information on labeling, packaging, food additives, and import procedures. Important points of contact for U.S. food exporters are listed in the appendices. Last Updated August 2005: Sections I, II, VI, VII, VIII, and IX. (See Report BK5007)

Biotechnology Annual Report: Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) anti-biotech position is growing day by day, and now some imported U.S. food products are being tested for biotech content and rejected. BiH lacks detailed regulations for the import and marketing of biotech foods, and since November 2004 the import of biotech products has been forbidden. Knowledge about biotechnology is poor even among scientists and agricultural officials. Agriculturists and non-government organizations that promote organic agriculture oppose biotech applications and encourage producers, consumers and regulators to reject biotech products. In 2004, the media and consumer groups criticized BiH authorities for not better controlling imported foods for biotech content and for approving the import of biotech commodities from the U.S. under the food aid program. (See report BK5006)

Grain and Feed Crop Update: The winter wheat crop is developing well with an expected total yield of around 220,000 MT from 90,000 ha. Bosnia and Herzegovina usually imports around 350,000 MT of wheat in a marketing year to cover its needs. Preparations for corn planting are delayed because of this year's excessive snowfall and continued snow cover. Total corn area for 2005/06 is expected to be 227,000 ha. Total spring barley area for 2005/06 is expected to be around 15,000 ha. At present, no biotech products can be imported into the country because no government agency has the authority to monitor and regulate biotech imports. (See report BK5004)

★ *Czech Republic***Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificates Report:**

This report covers only export certificates required by the Czech Republic, which differ from EU export certificate requirements. (See report EZ5013)

Grain and Feed Crop Update: On August 15, the Ministry of Agriculture estimated total grain production at around 7.8 million MT, which represents an 11% drop from the record harvest of 2004/2005. The smaller harvest is the result of smaller area (down by 1%) and lower yield (down by 10%). The quality of all grains will be lower. The State Agricultural and Intervention Fund (SAIF), the Czech Payment Agency, has contracted a storage capacity for 800,000 MT. However, 500,000 MT of last year's harvest still remain in storage. Almost all long-term storage capacity is in private hands, and the government is currently deciding whether to build state-owned warehouse for intervention purposes. At present, the Ministry of Agriculture is proposing three new warehouses with a total capacity of 300,000 MT. The decision whether or not to build these facilities will most likely be made in September. (See report EZ5012)

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report: On May 1, 2004, the Czech Republic became a member of the European Union (EU), and all EU food rules, regulations, and laws apply. This report provides information on the laws and regulations for food, food import rules, and contact information in the Czech Republic. Last Updated August 2005: Sections I, III, IV, VI, and Appendix I and II. (See report EZ5011)

Biotechnology Annual Report: The Czech Republic, as a member of the EU, follows the EU's legislative framework for biotechnology. Act 78/2004 replaced the first Act on GMO 153/2000. The Ministry of Environment is the competent authority for handling biotech product notifications, and the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for notifications of biotech food and feed. The Czech Republic ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in October 2001. This year about 300 hectares of Bt corn (MON 810) is being grown in the Czech Republic for the first time. The Czech Republic's coexistence rules require isolation distances and notifications to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment. When voting on biotech approvals at various levels in the EU, the Czech Republic takes a case-by-case approach and bases its decision on scientific evidence. (See report EZ5010)

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Czech Republic Names New Minister of Agriculture - Petr Zgarba: On April 25, Petr Zgarba replaced Jaroslav Palas as the Czech Republic's Minister of Agriculture. Zgarba is a 46-year-old Social Democrat who has been a party member since 2001. The reasons for former-Minister Palas's resignation were strictly political and lay in his personal disputes with former Prime Minister Gross. Zgarba is expected to continue the same course as his predecessor and not make major changes. According to some sources, he may be open to biotechnology, and he supports bio-ethanol production. As a first measure, he will need to address the country's large grain stocks from last year's harvest. (See report EZ5008)

Sugar Annual Report: Sugar beet production in MY 2004/05 was 554,000 MT. Average sugar content in MY 2004/05 was 17.5% (in MY 2003/04 16%) and the average output (tons of sugar per hectare) was 8.03 MT/ hectare. In 2004, the Czech Republic joined the EU sugar regime, and the price of sugar increased by over 20% after EU accession. The Czech Republic has a quota of 454,862 MT for sugar, out of which 97% is quota A for domestic production and 3% is quota B for export. Government officials agree with the necessity for reforming the sugar regime, however, they do not support the current EU proposal for cutting national quotas (A and B combined) by 16% as it would seriously decrease domestic production, and the Czech Republic would become a net sugar importer. (See report EZ5006)

★ *Croatia*

Croatia Confirms 2nd Case of H5N1 Avian Influenza in Dead Swans: On November 2, the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture confirmed that samples taken from dead swans from the fish-breeding farm Ribnjak "1905" were infected with the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus strain. The dead swans were from the same flock that had migrated and landed at the fish-breeding farm Grudnjak where the first confirmed finding of H5N1 was found. One of the swans from Ribnjak "1905" had a leg marking from Hungary, which the Croatian authorities officially reported to Hungarian authorities. (See report HR5016)

Croatia Confirms H5N1 Avian Influenza: On October 26, the reference laboratory for avian influenza in Weybridge, Great Britain confirmed that samples taken from dead swans from the fish-breeding farm Grudnjak were infected with the highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza virus strain. These results were announced as Croatian Veterinary authorities detected additional cases of the avian influenza virus H5 in dead swans located just a few kilometers away from Grudnjak in a near by fish-breeding farm. Croatian authorities took appropriate quarantine measures immediately and destroyed all domestic poultry in a radius of 3 kilometers from the second finding. The dead swans from both locations were from the same flock with one bird having a leg marking from Hungary. The virus samples from the second finding have been sent to Weybridge, Great Britain to identify the virus strain. (See report HR5015)

Grain and Feed Crop Update: Due to extremely wet weather this growing season, corn production is expected to be lower at 1.8 to 1.9 MMT, down from the earlier estimates of 2.2 MMT. This early estimate could change if the weather stabilizes. However, there will be quality problems and limited chance that Croatia will export corn this year. Wheat production amounted to 500,000 MT this year. Croatia will not have an exportable surplus of wheat and some imports of milling wheat are expected. Wheat imports will be sourced from the closest suppliers including Hungary and Bulgaria. (See report HR5012)

Grain and Feed Crop Situation Update: Croatia sowed wheat on an estimated 120,000 ha which resulted in a smaller crop of 500,000 MT. The growing season was wet with heavy rain during harvest. As a result, overall wheat quality is lower. This year's harvest, combined with government stocks of approximately 300,000 MT, will barely meet annual domestic consumption of 750,000 to 800,000 MT. Croatia will not have an exportable surplus of wheat and some imports are expected. Corn yield is expected to be good this year with an estimated 2.2 million MT from 400,000 ha. Croatia is not expected to import corn this year and may export some corn from this year's harvest. Barley was sown on an estimated 50,000 ha with a yield of 150,000 MT. This season's excessive rain affected both yield and quality. Barley imports are expected to be around 50,000 MT this year. (See report HR5011)

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report: This report provides information on the food import rules for Croatia. It includes information on labeling, packaging, food additives and import procedures. Important points of contact for U.S. food exporters are listed in the appendices. All sections of this annual report were updated in August 2005. (See report HR5010)

Biotechnology Annual Report: Croatia is a net food importer and government policy is geared toward raising agricultural productivity and, to a lesser extent, limiting imports. EU membership is also a priority for the Croatian government, and new laws and agricultural policies will increasingly mirror those of the EU. The Croatian public remains very skeptical about agricultural biotechnology. There has also been a general demonization of U.S. food products as "Frankenstein Foods". In 2004, samples of foodstuff and seed taken from the market were randomly tested for biotech traces, which resulted in the withdrawal of some products from the market and penalties because the biotech products were not labeled. In Croatia, several pieces of legislation have been introduced that seek to regulate the import and cultivation of biotech crops and foods. However, there is a lack of political will to proceed with further legislation that would enable actual imports of biotech products. (See report HR5009)

Biotechnology - New Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs): On May 27, the Croatian Government passed a new Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) that replaced the "biotechnology-regulating provisions" of the Law on Protection of Nature. The new law was published in Governmental Gazette num. 70 on June 8, 2005. (See report HR5008)

Fishery Products Market Brief: Despite Croatia's lengthy Adriatic coastline, the country struggles to catch and produce seafood. From 2000 to 2004, Croatia's seafood imports increased from \$33 million to \$71 million, a 114 percent increase with the trend expected to continue. Moreover, Croatia imports between \$1 to 2 million of seafood from the United States annually. Demand for seafood is increasing, as Croatia becomes a more popular tourist destination--making it an excellent market for U.S. seafood exports. (See report HR5007)

Wine Market Brief: Croatia provides a unique opportunity for U.S. wine exporters to position their product in this future EU member country. Disposable per capita income is growing, and the supermarket sector is expanding creating an opportunity for mass wine retailing. U.S. wine exporters should focus their market entry efforts on Zagreb, the nation's capital, where niches exist for medium and higher quality wines. (See report HR5006)

Biotechnology - New Measure on Seed Testing for Biotech Content: On March 24, the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM) announced that it had tested 15 samples of corn and 3 samples of soybean seeds and found no trace of biotech content. The testing was done following last year's finding of trace amounts of biotech content in Pioneer corn variety PR 34G13. The MAFWM announced that the testing measure on seeds would become a regular procedure before spring planting. There are rumors that corn and soybean feed will also be tested for biotech content in the near future. Croatia allows zero tolerance for all biotech varieties. (See report HR5004)

Product Brief Pet Food Market Update: Croatia's population is aging, and the standard of living is slowly rising. As a result, pets are becoming more popular. Croatia does not have a domestic pet food manufacturing industry and imports all of its consumption. In 2003, imports totaled \$21.2 million and are on the rise. While direct exports from the United States account for only a small portion of the pet food market (2.8 % in 2003), U.S. exporters are advised to keep a keen eye on Croatia's economic growth as an indicator of

potential sales for U.S. pet food products. One good prospect for U.S. dog and cat food exporters is the niche market for premium pet foods. (See report HR5002)

★ *Hungary*

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report:

This report covers only export certificates required by Hungary, which differ from EU export certificate requirements. (See report HU5012)

Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual Report: The apple crop for 2005/2006 will be 32% lower than last year at 440,000 to 470,000 MT. Cold, rainy weather in May spoiled fruit setting during pollination, and humid, cool weather throughout the summer resulted in extensive fungus infestations. Domestic and export demand will be met with supplies. However, juice concentrate production will be lower. (See report HU5011)

Grain and Feed Crop Situation Update: In July, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) reduced its total wheat and coarse grain crop forecast to 14.5 million MT from its June 2005 figure of 17.4 million MT and calculated Hungary's carryover grain stock from 7.1 to 7.2 million MT. This means that Hungary must handle more than 20 million MT of grain this season. By August 1, eighty percent of the 1.135 million hectares of wheat had been harvested. Analysts expect a 5.2 million MT total crop. However, wet weather affected the gluten content and falling numbers. This year industry expects only 65 to 70 percent of the total crop will be of milling quality. Cornfields look good. Abundant rainfall and hot weather in late July helped to offset the weaker early development. MARD estimates are at 7 million MT from 1.220 million hectare. (See report HU5010)

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report: On May 1, 2004, Hungary became a member of the European Union (EU), and all EU food rules, regulations, and laws apply. This report provides information on the laws and regulations for food, food import rules, and contact information in Hungary. Last Updated August 2005: Appendix I and II (See report HU5009)

Biotechnology Annual Report: Hungary's biotechnology policy for feed corn production, corn seed production, and soybean product (soybean meal) imports negatively impacts U.S. exports to Hungary. Field corn and seed corn production (about one fifth of the EU's corn crop) is dominated by American varieties. Four corn varieties passed the evaluation process and are waiting approval, two others are still under field trials. In January 2005, the GOH imposed a moratorium on the varieties of the MON 810 corn event. Legal and technical debates about the moratorium and coexistence regulation (in preparation) may hamper the commercialization of biotechnology crop varieties in Hungary over the next few years. (See report HU5008)

Hungarian Chief Veterinary Officer Dismissed: On May 24, Jozsef Graf, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development dismissed Dr. Tibor Balint, Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) and Head of the Veterinary Department. Dr. Miklos Suth assumed the CVO position on June 1, 2005. Dr. Suth was previously the Director of Hungary's Food Inspection Institute. (See report HU5007)

Hungarian Prime Minister Sacks Ag Minister Nemeth and Nominates Graf: At an April 25th meeting of the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP), Prime Minister Gyurcsany announced the removal of Imre Nemeth, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and nominated Jozsef Graf as the new minister. (See report HU5006)

★ *Slovakia***Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificates Report:**

This report covers only export certificates required by the Slovak Republic, which differ from EU export certificate requirements. (See report LO5011)

Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual: Due to cold and rainy weather during flowering and a wet summer, Slovakia's commercial apple crop is expected to amount to 29,093 MT in 2005. This represents a 6.5% decrease (31,062 MT) compared to 2004. Total apple production (including non-commercial production) will reach 39,093 MT. Due to a growing health awareness, fruit and fruit product consumption is on the rise. Slovakia is a net importer of fresh fruit and processed fruit. (See report LO5010)

Livestock and Products Classical Swine Outbreak: On August 12, 2005 the Slovak State Veterinary and Food Administration announced an outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF) in domestic pigs on a farm called Ples in the town of Rapovce in the Lucenec district. This announcement followed the State Veterinary Institute's confirmation of CSF on August 9. The District State Veterinary and Food Administration of Lucenec have since destroyed all 851 pigs housed on the Ples farm and established a protection and surveillance zone around the area of outbreak. (See report LO5009)

Grain and Feed - Intervention Purchases Update: The Agricultural Payment Agency in Slovakia has finished intervention purchases of grains from last year's harvest. The Government bought 505 thousand MT out of 642 thousand MT of grains from Slovak farmers. The rest of the grain was refused for unsatisfactory quality. (See report LO5008)

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report: The Slovak food and agricultural import regulations and standards have become almost fully harmonized with EU legislation. Over the past year, Slovakia passed a new Feed Act and a new Act on GMOs. This report provides information on the laws and regulations for food, food import rules, and contact information in the Slovak Republic. All sections of this annual report were updated in August 2005. (See report 5007)

Biotechnology Annual Report: As an EU member, Slovakia has fully implemented EU regulations on biotechnology, and the growing of biotech crops is not prohibited. However, Slovakia still does not have coexistence regulations in place, and no biotech crops are grown or tested in the country. There is a growing lack of consumer acceptance for biotechnology due to intense anti-biotech campaigns led by NGOs and the influence of neighboring countries. However, Slovak consumers have not been strongly averse to buying biotech products in the past, and several retail chains offer cooking oils made from biotech soybeans. (See report LO5006)

BSE Update: Last month the State Veterinary Administration in Slovakia announced that it tested 18,123 heads of cattle from January to March 2005 with no cow testing positive for BSE. The State Veterinary Administration has been testing and monitoring BSE in Slovakia since July 1, 2001. Testing is conducted systematically on each head of cattle older than 30 months. (See report LO5005)

Grain Update--Spring Planting Targets: Sowing area for spring barley in 2005 is set at 208,000 hectares. Sowing area for spring wheat is expected at 11,300 hectares, representing an increase of 300 ha from 2004. Oat production in Slovakia has been on the rise since 2000 and is expected to continue with 25,000 hectares sown in 2005. Sowing area for corn is expected to increase with plantings at 150,000 hectares in 2005. The Ministry of

Agriculture recommends a minimum sowing area of 15,000 hectares for peas. Peas are an important feed crop in Slovakia. (See report LO5003)

★ *Slovenia*

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report: On May 1, 2004, Slovenia has become a member of the European Union (EU), and all EU food rules, regulations, and laws apply. This report provides information on the laws and regulations for food, food import rules, and contact information in Slovenia. All sections of this annual report were updated in August 2005. (See report SI5002)

Calendar of Events in the Region

Market Promotions Activities Austria & Central Europe

Czech Republic

May 16 New York State Virtual Wine Tasting

Croatia

May 24 Wine Tasting



Hungary

May 10 Menu Promotion

Slovenia

June 10 Reception for Cochran Fellowship Program Participants



*Visitors***Austria****Bosnia –Herzegovina****Czech Republic**

June 16 Ohio State University Agricultural Leadership Program
FAS presentation on Czech agriculture and trade issues, discussion with guests



July 19-26 Ms. Penny Zervos, FSIS
July 19-30 Dr. Rori Craver, FSIS
July 20-23 Dr. Karen Sliter, APHIS Vienna
July 26-29 Madelyn Spirnak, Senior Advisor for Agriculture Biotechnology, State Department

Croatia**Hungary**

June 22 James P. Camerlo, Chairman, Dairy Farmers of America

July 25 Madelyn Spirnak, Senior Advisor for Agricultural Biotechnology, US Department of State

August 18 CODEL headed by Sen. Saxby Chambliss, Chairman, Agricultural Committee

Aug 27-
Sept 4 74th National Agricultural and Food Industrial Exhibition (OMEK) in Budapest

Slovakia

July 29 –
July 1 Madelyn Spirnak, Senior Advisor for Agriculture Biotechnology, State - Department

*Holidays and Embassy Closures***All Posts**

November 24	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day
December 26*	Monday	Christmas Day

Austria

December 8	Thursday	Immaculate Conception
December 25	Sunday	Christmas Day
December 26	Monday	St. Stephen's Day

Bosnia –Herzegovina

November 25	Friday	Statehood Day	(BiH)
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Czech Republic

November 17	Thursday	Struggle for Freedom Day
December 24	Saturday	Christmas Eve
December 26	Monday	St. Stephen's Day

Croatia

November 11	Friday	Veterans' Day
November 24	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day
December 25	Sunday	Christmas Day
December 26	Monday	St. Stephen's Day/Christmas Observance

Hungary

December 24	Saturday	Christmas Day
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Slovakia

November 17	Thursday	Day of the Fight for Freedom and Democracy
December 24	Saturday	Christmas Eve
December 25	Sunday	Christmas Day
December 26	Monday	St. Stephen's Day

Slovenia

December 25	Sunday	Christmas Day
December 26	Sunday	National Day

Contact us for Additional Info

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Slovakia, Slovenia

For information about Slovakia, please contact our Austrian or Czech office. For Slovenia, please contact our Croatian office.

Visit our website: at <http://www.usembassy.at/en/usda/> which provides a broad range of useful information on the Austrian and Central European food market, trade, import rules, and other useful information.